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Letter dated 3 February 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you, and through you, to the members of the Security Council a press statement and an explanatory note issued by the Sudanese International Aid Commission regarding the suspension of the activities of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the Sudan (see annex). The attached documents clearly prove that ICRC did not comply with the humanitarian principles and guidelines that govern the relations with the host country.

Having brought this to your kind attention, I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Hassan Hamid **Hassan**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 February 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Press release

In order to regulate the work of humanitarian partners, the Humanitarian Aid Commission renewed for 2014 the directives concerning humanitarian work that were in effect in 2013, in accordance with the Humanitarian Work Law (2006). Under that Law, projects and activities are implemented through partnerships and in accordance with State directives requiring that assistance should be provided to affected persons through national organizations and staff. The International Committee of the Red Cross was requested through United Nations, international and foreign agencies to comply with those directives several times since the beginning of 2013.

The International Committee of the Red Cross continued to carry out activities that were outside its mandate under international covenants and agreements concluded with the Government of the Sudan. Accordingly, the Humanitarian Aid Technical Committee informed the International Committee of the Red Cross that it should conclude technical agreements with the Humanitarian Aid Commission and the national partner, the Sudanese Red Crescent, and comply with the terms of the partnership agreements. The International Committee of the Red Cross was also informed that, in respect of humanitarian assistance, it must work only with the Sudanese Red Crescent and must not have direct dealings with any Government agency.

In view of its lack of compliance with those directives, the International Committee of the Red Cross was informed that all services provided to it by the Joint Procedures Centre of the Humanitarian Aid Commission would be suspended effective 1 February 2014 and would remain suspended until it was in compliance.

The Humanitarian Aid Commission stresses that it is eager to facilitate the work of all national, United Nations, international and foreign humanitarian partners, provided that they comply with all laws, regulations and directives concerning humanitarian work in the Sudan.

Humanitarian Aid Commission
2 February 2014

Republic of the Sudan
Ministry of the Interior
Humanitarian Aid Commission
Humanitarian Aid Technical Committee

2 February 2014

Communication regarding the International Committee of the Red Cross

1. As part of its efforts to ensure compliance by national and international humanitarian partners, the Humanitarian Aid Commission issued in 2013 a set of directives concerning humanitarian work. All partners, including United Nations agencies and national and international organizations, complied with those directives. However, throughout 2013, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delayed implementation of those directives by prolonging negotiations, sending communications and failing to respond immediately to requests.

2. Under the directives, ICRC was requested to review its plan and adopt it with the national partner, the Sudanese Red Crescent. In that connection, the latter made some observations regarding activities that are related to its core work (the auxiliary role of the national committee) and with regard to the provision of livestock feed and seed. This requires that the plan of ICRC should be reviewed in the context of its authorization to operate in the Sudan.

3. In 2013, a committee headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and having among its membership representatives of the relevant parties was established to review the country agreement. The committee completed its work and prepared a draft country agreement, which was officially given to ICRC in October 2013. To date, ICRC has delayed acceptance of the amended agreement on the pretext that it was being reviewed by its legal department in Geneva.

4. In view of the above, the Humanitarian Aid Technical Committee held several meetings regarding the matter. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Technical Committee informed ICRC of the need to comply with the directives and the Ministry's requests, but ICRC nonetheless continued to delay. Accordingly, the Ministry and the Technical Committee informed ICRC that all services provided to it by the Joint Procedures Centre of the Humanitarian Aid Commission would be suspended effective 1 February 2014 and would remain suspended until it was in compliance.

5. The Secretary-General of the Red Crescent participated in the meetings of the Technical Committee and confirmed that ICRC was not complying with the directives. Discussion were held in that regard with the President of the General Assembly of the Sudanese Red Crescent, Hussein Abu Salih, who stressed that the ICRC should work in partnership with the Red Crescent through a partnership agreement.

6. Accordingly, the Minister of the Interior, acting through the Council of Ministers, instructed the relevant ministries that any agreement with ICRC may be concluded only through the Sudanese Red Crescent, the national partner, and to work with ICRC in accordance with the Law on Volunteer and Humanitarian Work

(2006), which requires partners to conclude technical agreements with the Humanitarian Aid Commission.

7. Instead of taking action to bring itself into compliance, ICRC issued a press release that contains inaccurate information and draws attention to the expulsion of organizations and the decisions of the International Criminal Court, with a view to denigrating the Sudan. In response, the Humanitarian Aid Commission issued a press release in that regard and the Sudanese Red Crescent also issued a communiqué.

Sulayman **Abdulrahman**
Commissioner-General of the Humanitarian Aid Commission
Chair, Humanitarian Aid Technical Committee